

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 055918
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RWBAKER:CJ
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP
AMB.LEMELLE
AF/E:RPOST
S/S-DANDERSON

-----110870 040206Z /73

O 040121Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 055918

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KE

SUBJECT: KENYAN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS

REF: LE MELLE-BLANE TELECON OF 3/3

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF WORKING PAPER PROVIDED BY KENYAN
DELEGATION:

1. FACED WITH THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND CONSIDERING THE SOVIET PENETRATION IN THE REGION AND THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF KENYA'S NEIGHBORING STATES, WE HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO EXPAND OUR ARMED FORCES TO A LEVEL ADEQUATE TO DEFEND OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. OUR IMMEDIATE TARGET IS TO EXPAND AND MODERNIZE OUR CURRENT MILITARY STRENGTH TO ONE ARMY DIVISION AND A SIZEABLE AIR FORCE.

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ARTILLERY:

2. FROM THE LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE OGADEN WAR, IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT OUR LIMITED SHORT RANGE ARTILLERY CANNOT MATCH THE RUSSIAN MADE 130MM AND 122MM ARTILLERY GUNS. TO COUNTER THIS THREAT, OUR ARMY SHOULD BE EQUIPPED

WITH AT LEAST A BATTALION OF THE 155 MM HOWITZERS. ADDITIONALLY THE CURRENT LIMITED CLOSE SUPPORT ARTILLERY

CAPABILITY SHOULD BE INCREASED BY TWO MORE ARTILLERY BATTALIONS EQUIPPED WITH 105 MM HOWITZERS.

ARMOUR AND MOBILITY

3. IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THE RUSSIAN MADE T54/55 TANKS FOUND IN THE ARMED FORCES OF NEIGHBOURING STATES, OUR ARMY NEEDS AT LEAST THREE TANK BATTALIONS AND A COMPLIMENTARY TOW AND BAZOOKA ANTI-TANK WEAPON SYSTEMS.

4. CONSIDERING KENYA'S EXTENSIVE BORDER AREAS AND THE VERY LIMITED MILITARY RESOURCES, AN ELEMENT OF THE ARMY SHOULD BE MOBILE SO THAT FORCES CAN BE EASILY AND QUICKLY MOVED FROM ONE SECTOR TO ANOTHER AS THE SITUATION MAY DICTATE. TO ENSURE THIS MOBILITY AND FLEXIBILITY WE NEED HELICOPTERS AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS.

AIR DEFENSE

5. IN ORDER TO DEFEND OUR AIR SPACE AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDE ADEQUATE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT TO THE ARMY, OUR AIR FORCE REQUIRES AT LEAST ONE COMPLETE GROUND ATTACK SQUADRON OF TWELVE A4 SKYHAWK AIRCRAFT, AND ADDITIONAL
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ONE FIGHTER SQUADRON OF TWELVE F-5 E AIRCRAFT. TO SUPPLEMENT THIS WE ALSO REQUIRE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE CAPABILITY SUCH AS WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE HAWK, ROLAND AND REDEYE SYSTEMS.

SUMMARY

6. THE LIST OF OUR REQUIREMENTS IS NOT BY ANY MEANS EXHAUSTIVE. THIS SITUATION MAY IN FACT WARRANT MORE THAN WE ARE ASKING. HOWEVER WE REALIZE THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ABSORBING TOO MUCH NEW EQUIPMENT WITHIN A SHORT TIME. WE ARE THEREFORE ASKING FOR WHAT WE CONSIDER OUR MINIMUM REQUIREMENT.

7. IN CONCLUSION WE MUST EMPHASIZE THAT THE ARMS WILL BE USED PURELY FOR DEFENSE. IN THE PAST KENYA HAS BEEN VERY RELUCTANT TO SQUANDER OUR LIMITED ECONOMIC RESOURCES ON UNNECESSARY MILITARY SPENDING. WE HAVE HOWEVER REACHED A STAGE WHERE A MEASURE OF STRENGTH IS IMPERATIVE, IF ONLY AS A DETERRENT. OUR AIM IS TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND STABILITY IN KENYA. THIS WE CAN ONLY ACHIEVE THROUGH STRENGTH.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, PAPERS, NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE055918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWBAKER:CJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780098-0698
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803106/aaaadlvs.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c477bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3115269
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KENYAN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS
TAGS: MASS, KE
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c477bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014